

Band 1 drills Dental 25-19, seeks to improve 7-3 record



(Above) Grady May, Band 1, goes in for the spike that his teammate, Jordan Kominsky, sets up for him during the volleyball game at the Depot War Memorial Gym Monday night. (Right) Duane King, a player for Band 1, spikes the volleyball through Dental player Jason Walker's block during an intramural volleyball game Monday. Band won 25-9 and 25-19.

LANCE CPL. DARHONDA V. HALL
STAFF WRITER

Band 1 defeated Dental 25-9, 25-19 in Tri-Command intramural volleyball play at the Depot's War Memorial Gym Monday night.

Dental's standing in the intramural volleyball league is last place with a record of 1-9, while Band 1 holds third place with a record of 7-3.

Band 1's accumulation of points during the game occurred in no time. Dental attempted to interrupt the continuous flow of Band 1's victory bumps over the net, not all of the balls were stopped before hitting the floor.

Although the first half was disappointing to Dental, the team scored points by distributing successful serves over

the net and directly through Band 1's hands, and covering the court as much as they could with three players on each team.

"We played three on three so we had to do a lot more running around the court than usual," said Jason Walker, Dental player.

During the second match, Dental fought off Band 1 as much as they could by rushing for the ball and refusing to let it touch the floor. They bumped, set and spiked the ball to score when given the opportunity. However, Band 1 stole the match with their defensive strategy of quickly turning the game around and putting the ball back into their hands.

"We gave them competition towards the end," Walker said.

"Maybe next year we'll actually get better."

Though the game ended in victory for Band 1, not all of the players were content with their performance. Grady May, a player for Band 1, was not satisfied with the team's playing tactics during the game.

"We played poorly," said May. "We weren't focused and we lacked the fundamentals."

Despite the fact that Dental loss, they didn't think the game was bad at all.

"It was fun even though we lost," said Walker. "We don't take the game serious enough to not have fun."

"We don't even understand the game," he laughed. "We just know that we're supposed to get the ball over the net and try to score."



Lance Cpl Darhonda V. Hall

RS Orlando Marine born in Baghdad, supporting America

STAFF SGT. TRACIE KESSLER
MPA, RS ORLANDO

The United States has been called "the Great Melting Pot," referring to the vast wealth of cultures and people that have been called to America by its promises of freedom and liberty.

For one Recruiting Station Orlando, Fla. Marine, his family answered the call and escaped from a hostile country to settle in the land of the free.

Staff Sgt. Edmond Ahkteebo, a recruiter at Recruiting Substation Bradenton, Fla., was originally born in Baghdad, Iraq. With his fair skin, light-green eyes and Mid-western accent, a person would guess he was from any number of places.

At the young age of 4, his father was able to bring his family to the United States and settled in Chicago.

"My father told (the government) we were going on vacation to Beirut, Lebanon, and we just never came back. My Dad had friends at the U.S. Embassy and they gave us green cards right away allowing us to move to the United States," said Ahkteebo.

Ahkteebo's family is Assyrian, one of the four major nationalities in Iraq. He explained other Iraqis have heavily persecuted Assyrians because Assyrians are the



Staff Sgt. Tracie Kessler

Staff Sgt. Edmond Ahkteebo, RS Orlando, Fla., discusses advantages of joining the Corps at the Florida International Air Show March 27.

only Christians in the entire country.

"We're like second-class citizens. If you're not Muslim you're second-class. But all that has changed since Saddam Hussein has been taken out of power," Ahkteebo explained.

Even though he comes from a more

unique background than many Marines, he believes he is no different. Many times, curious Marines will ask about his name or his origin and he is more than willing to talk about it.

"[Marines] find it hard to believe. They ask me why did I leave my country. It's an

interesting subject to them," he explained.

"When they see me, they only see a Marine. I try to explain that you don't have to be from America to be an American. It's about believing in America."

After living in the U.S. for more than 20 years, Ahkteebo still has ties to Iraq. His mother keeps in touch with two brothers, both of whom fought for Iraq in the first Gulf War, and his father keeps in touch with his sisters. Having family living in Iraq and knowing the conditions they were living in before the war started made it tough for him to have to sit out the war.

"I don't believe that things are better. I know they are, from family members telling us. Things aren't the greatest right now, but it's going to get better and they know it," he said.

"My parents have told me all of the horror stories. You had to have a picture of Saddam Hussein in your house, just all of the basic rights we take for granted (were denied in Iraq)," he said.

"Everyday (during the war) I'd watch the news and it would be eating me up inside because it's my country. I speak the language and I should be there with the Marines and helping out with the reconstruction of the country," Ahkteebo said.

Ahkteebo's enlistment into the Marine

Corps could be considered as unique as his background. He explained that when he decided to join the Marine Corps he only had a general education degree and scored a 48 on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Test. To join with a GED, he had to have a score of 50 or higher.

His desire to join the Marines and serve his country was so strong, however, that he was not going to take no for an answer. After dealing with his recruiting station commanding officer and the Eastern and Western Recruiting Regions, his quest finally led him to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

After several attempts at calling the Commandant, at that time it was General Charles Krulak, he was finally able to get through.

"He said 'You keep calling here and harassing my secretary', so he took my information and the (recruiting station commanding officer) called me 15 minutes later. Two days later I was at (the military entrance processing station)," explained Ahkteebo.

"I thought it was important to serve my country and the best way to do that was through the Marine Corps," said Ahkteebo.

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Golfers take full swings to raise money for relief society

PFC. PAUL W. HIRSEMAN
STAFF WRITER

Golfers took to the green of the Legends of Parris Island golf course to participate in the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Golf Tournament March 26.

The NMCRS Golf Tournament is the first major event of the golf season on Parris Island, and it featured 25 teams of four players competing to raise money for the society.

A total of \$1,205 was raised from the tournament, all of which will be used to help fund the NMCRS, which exists to supply Marines and sailors with financial and educational support, as well as other resources.

The winning group from the

tournament was Lt. Col. Keith Cieri, commanding officer, 1st RTBn., Mike Kaneshigi, maintenance chief, CVIC, Master Sgt. Mike Fisher, administrative chief, Depot Adjutant, and Sgt. Robert Brown, S-4 NCOIC, 4th RTBn.

Prizes, which included free services and play time at local courses for the top teams, were contributed by local businesses and golf courses in and around Beaufort.


"This course is beautiful, and golf is a great way to relax," said retired Master Gunnery Sgt. George Harrison. "It isn't about competition, we're here for fun."

The Legends golf course is a full 18-hole course, and all of the holes were played during the tournament.

The course features every type of hazard including doglegs, bunkers and water traps. Aside from the entry fee, golfers could also have purchased a "mulligan," which is another try at a shot, or strings used to determine the distance of a 'sure-thing' putt. If the string reaches from the ball to the hole it is assumed it would be impossible to miss and the golfer would not need to putt.

Everyone who played in the tournament said it was a good way to spend an afternoon.

"Overall, I think this tournament was outstanding," said Fisher. "It seems like everyone was having a good time and the support was awesome. There was a real spirit of sportsmanship during the tournament."



Intramural Softball starts next week
Watch for coverage in *The Boot*

